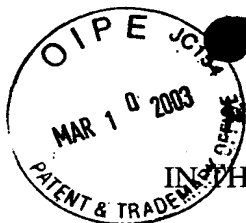


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Bloom *et al.*

Appl. No. 09/599,452

Filed: June 22, 2000

For: **Rapid Growing Microorganisms
for Biotechnology Applications**

Confirmation No. 7893

Art Unit: 1636

Examiner: Lambertson, D.

Atty. Docket: 0942.4970001/RWE/FRC

Petition For Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(1) #18

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

It is hereby requested that the period for replying to the outstanding Office Action be extended three (3) months from January 3, 2003 to April 3, 2003 by the filing of this Petition and fee payment.

The petition fee (37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)) is believed to be \$930.00 for a three (3) month extension for a large entity. Fee payment is provided in our accompanying PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form. However, if extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 other than those provided herewith are required to prevent abandonment of the present patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Frank R. Cottingham
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Date: MAR. 10, 2003

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